

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9622
Sep 1

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
CENTRAL STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
Columbus, Ohio

U. S. AGRICULTURE

Technical Note No. 57

September 15, 1943

Preliminary Report on Lumber Production for 1942 in Ohio^{1/}

by L. F. Kellogg

The sawmills of Ohio produced 270,392,000 board feet of lumber in 1942. The 1942 lumber census, which has just closed, tallied 1,494 active mills and 359 idle ones, which total 1,853 for the State (table 1).

Sawmills were producing rapidly during the early part of the year in response to active war demands. With the advance of the year, the Army's drafting of labor and, in cases, owners of sawmills, together with other losses of labor, caused a falling off in production. The year ended in a month of bad weather.

The final production statistics which are now being compiled by the Bureau of the Census and which will be released by that agency in due time, will be based on a complete coverage of the industry by rail supplemented by a field canvass of delinquents by the Forest Service. Nineteen-forty-one was the first year and 1942 the second that lumber production has been obtained in Ohio in this manner.

Table 1.--Reported production of lumber, in Ohio,
for 1941 and 1942

Includes output of all classes of sawmills producing 1,000 bd. ft.
or more per annum

Year	Production	Mills
	in feet b.m.	Number
1941	306,323	1,649
1942	270,392	1,494

The State's production is estimated to have declined from 306.3 million feet to 270.4 million feet, a decrease of about 36 million, or 11.7 percent (basis, 1941), and the number of active mills to have declined from 1,649 in 1941 to 1,494 in 1942.

Table 2 shows Ohio's 1942 production, as reported, distributed by kinds of wood. Although sawmills produce hardwood predominantly there was about 1.1

^{1/} Preliminary data subject to revision. Final production statistics will be released by the Bureau of the Census. Both preliminary and final statistics are the results of surveys made by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, and the Statistics Division, War Production Board, and with the assistance of the State Forester's staff, Wooster, Ohio (for canvass in 1941).

(Over)

percent of the total which was softwood, primarily southern yellow pines and hemlock, together with lesser amounts of three other native softwoods. Among the hardwoods, oak accounted for about 50 percent of the sawing, followed by maple (11.7 percent), beech (11.4 percent), elm (7.4 percent), yellowpoplar (4.0 percent), and a variety of other hardwoods. Table 2 also shows the amounts produced by mills sawing 49 M bd. ft. and less per year, and by mills producing 50 M bd. ft. and more per year.

Table 2.--Estimated lumber production in OHIO, by kinds of wood and size class of mill, in 1942

Kind of wood	Quantity produced per annum by mills producing:		Total	Proportion
	49 M & less	50 M or more		
	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	Percent
<u>Softwoods</u>				
Cedar	16	117	133	0.1
Hemlock	16	620	636	0.2
Larch	-	45	45	-
Pine, white ^{1/}	1	264	265	0.1
Pine, yellow	134	1,679	1,813	0.7
Total softwoods	167	2,725	2,892	1.1
<u>Hardwoods</u>				
Ash	254	5,789	6,043	2.2
Basswood	166	3,677	3,843	1.4
Beech	1,371	29,466	30,837	11.4
Birch	14	366	380	0.1
Chestnut	338	4,535	4,873	1.8
Cottonwood	205	3,085	3,290	1.2
Elm	1,285	18,689	19,974	7.4
Gum, red	32	569	601	0.2
Hickory	362	7,803	8,165	3.0
Maple	1,414	30,291	31,705	11.7
Oak	5,228	132,079	137,307	50.8
Sycamore	301	3,360	3,661	1.4
Tupelo, black gum	78	1,791	1,869	0.7
Walnut	77	3,568	3,645	1.4
Yellowpoplar	501	10,266	10,767	4.0
<u>Other hardwoods</u>				
Black cherry	22	412	434	0.2
Box elder	-	1	1	-
Buckeye	-	3	3	-
Catalpa	1	-	1	-
Cucumber	2	14	16	-
Hackberry	6	8	14	-
Locust	4	38	42	-
Sassafras	-	3	3	-
Willow	1	25	26	-
Total hardwoods	11,662	255,838	267,500	98.9
Total, all woods	11,829	258,563	270,392	100.0
Percent	4.4	95.6	100.0	-

^{1/} Includes old planted windbreaks and farmstead trees; mostly from native relict groups and fringes.

The compiling of lumber sawed by county units is useful in delineating portions of the state where lumbering stands largest in the local economy. Table 3 presents county totals of lumber production and number of sawmills, subdivided further into three classes: idle, sawing 1 - 49 M bd. ft. per year, and sawing 50 M bd. ft. per year. To avoid disclosing data for individual establishments, adjacent counties have ^{been} combined in several cases (table 3).

Table 3.--Estimated lumber production and number of sawmills by counties and by size classes of mill in Ohio in 1942¹

County or counties	Production class						Active mills	
	Idle : 49 M per year or less		: 50 M per year or more		Total:			
	mills:	Mills:	Production:	Mills:	Production:	mills:	Production:	Mills
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.
Adams	14	15	340	26	4,752	55	5,092	41
Allen	2	4	75	5	1,441	11	1,516	9
Ashland	6	10	184	9	3,883	25	4,067	19
Ashtabula	11	9	214	32	14,581	52	14,595	41
Athens	3	3	41	17	5,415	23	5,456	20
Auglaize	-	9	236	5	1,748	14	1,984	14
Belmont	-	7	143	13	4,663	20	4,811	20
Brown	8	6	110	6	2,288	20	2,398	12
Carroll & Stark	8	12	203	28	8,952	48	9,155	40
Champaign	1	8	88	5	1,992	14	2,080	13
Clark & Montgomery	8	8	161	3	1,252	19	1,413	11
Clermont & Hamilton	8	8	103	3	410	19	513	11
Columbiana	4	11	179	19	6,294	34	6,473	30
Coshocton	3	6	165	21	6,327	30	6,492	27
Crawford	2	5	144	6	879	13	1,023	11
Cuyahoga	3	3	23	3	1,810	9	1,833	6
Darke	9	8	213	5	1,186	22	1,399	13
Defiance	1	6	60	7	954	14	1,014	13
Delaware	1	4	44	8	3,185	13	3,229	12
Erie	3	4	36	5	1,977	12	2,013	9
Fairfield	3	10	139	4	828	17	957	14
Fayette & Clinton	8	9	190	5	1,260	22	1,450	14
Franklin & Madison	5	15	247	4	2,135	22	2,380	17
Gallia	8	17	251	7	1,559	32	1,810	24
Geauga	4	8	148	15	5,389	27	5,537	23
Greene	5	5	76	4	340	14	416	9
Guernsey	8	5	117	21	6,680	34	6,797	26
Hancock & Wood	-	4	109	10	991	14	1,100	14
Hardin	6	8	152	4	1,238	18	1,390	12
Harrison	4	4	82	15	4,750	23	4,832	19
Henry	-	10	269	7	839	17	1,108	17
Highland	8	9	144	9	1,051	26	1,195	18
Hocking	12	11	246	25	7,595	48	7,841	36

Table 3 (cont'd)

County or counties	Production class						Active mills		
	Idle : 49 M per year or less:		50 M per year or more:		Total:				
	mills:	Mills:	Production:	Mills:	Production:	mills:	Production:	Mills	
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	
Holmes	3	6	185	33	8,753	42	8,936	39	
Huron	10	10	138	6	2,371	26	2,509	16	
Jackson	5	12	243	16	3,732	33	3,975	28	
Jefferson	3	5	77	18	3,494	26	6,571	23	
Knox	2	5	109	20	6,433	27	6,542	25	
Lake	3	5	66	5	2,215	13	2,281	10	
Lawrence	8	11	225	13	2,199	32	2,422	24	
Licking	2	6	126	13	2,488	21	2,614	19	
Logan	4	7	78	3	942	14	1,020	10	
Lorain	5	9	178	8	4,533	22	4,711	17	
Lucas & Fulton	4	8	187	14	3,024	26	3,211	22	
Marion & Union	4	6	132	5	1,250	15	1,582	11	
Medina	2	7	149	11	4,285	20	4,432	18	
Meigs	3	6	134	8	1,593	17	1,527	14	
Mercer	6	8	140	7	2,000	21	2,140	15	
Miami	1	4	41	4	3,261	9	3,302	8	
Monroe	3	6	134	11	2,567	20	2,701	17	
Morgan	7	8	199	5	2,709	20	2,908	13	
Morrow	2	6	95	6	1,075	14	1,170	12	
Muskingum	4	8	193	12	4,746	24	4,939	20	
Noble	6	9	102	11	2,327	26	2,429	20	
Perry	5	-	-	6	2,193	11	2,193	6	
Pickaway	1	4	54	4	587	9	641	8	
Pike	5	13	529	52	12,890	70	13,219	65	
Portage & Mahoning	9	20	463	8	3,266	37	3,729	28	
Preble	2	3	115	3	1,006	8	1,121	6	
Putnam	6	7	194	6	1,121	19	1,325	13	
Richland	5	16	234	13	3,140	34	3,374	29	
Ross	8	17	465	23	4,297	48	4,762	40	
Sandusky & Ottawa	3	7	115	5	1,969	15	2,084	12	
Scioto	12	22	521	37	6,811	71	7,332	59	
Seneca	4	13	130	8	1,917	25	2,047	21	
Shelby	2	4	70	4	1,432	10	1,502	8	
Summit	1	5	118	3	1,142	9	1,260	8	
Trumbull	5	9	201	20	11,926	34	12,127	29	
Tuscarawas	7	3	35	22	7,899	32	7,934	25	
Van Wert & Paulding	9	7	116	5	1,474	21	1,590	12	
Vinton	3	3	74	20	7,253	26	7,327	23	
Warren & Butler	9	12	241	3	624	24	865	15	
Washington	6	11	162	33	5,716	50	5,878	44	
Wayne	1	11	216	13	2,178	25	2,394	24	
Williams	2	6	75	6	914	14	989	12	
Wyandot	1	3	52	8	1,556	12	1,608	11	
Total	359	607	11,829	837	258,563	1,853	270,392	1,494	

1/ Several counties have been combined to avoid disclosing data for individual establishments.

Some 95.6 percent of Ohio's 1942 lumber output came from sawmills producing 50 M bd. ft. per year or more. Subdivision of this amount by production classes provides additional information on the structure of the industry. In table 4; analysis of this division shows that almost half of the lumber sawed (48.1 percent) originated in mills which produced from 50 to 499 M bd.ft. during the year. This group also contained the largest number of mills. About 29 percent was sawed at mills producing between a half million and a million bd. ft. per annum; and about 18 percent by the small group of mills sawing over a million bd. ft. per year. By contrast, the 607 small mills, producing 1 - 49 M bd. ft. per year, accounted for only 4.4 percent of the 1942 lumber production (table 4).

Table 4.--Number and estimated production of sawmills by production classes, in Ohio, in 1942

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Sawmills		Lumber production	
	Number	M feet b.m.	Percent	
1 - 49	607	11,829	4.4	
50 - 499	710	130,174	48.1	
500 - 999	130	78,873	29.2	
1000 - 4999	47	49,516	18.3	
Total	1,494	270,392	100.0	

Many sawmills in Ohio sell their product to secondary wood-using industries, to concentration yards, to brokers, to ultimate users, or to farmers directly from the saw. Only a portion of Ohio's sawmills carry stocks of lumber. In the canvass for 1942, 331 mills reported them, the bulk being carried by the mills in the 50 - 499 M and 500-999 M bd. ft. per annum classes. For the State as a whole, reported stocks on hand at the sawmills shrunk from about 15 million bd. ft. on January 1, to about 9 million bd. ft. at the end of the year (table 5).

Table 5.--Number and estimated production of mills reporting stocks on January 1 and on December 31, 1942, and the amount of those stocks, by production classes, in Ohio

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Mills reporting stocks on hand		Stocks on hand, 1942	
	Mills	Production	January 1	December 31
	Number	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.
1 - 49	75 ^{1/}	1,590	576	371
50 - 499	190	41,353	7,421	3,545
500 - 999	53	36,689	4,459	2,314
1000 - 4999	13	16,551	2,590	2,748
Total	331	96,183	15,046	8,978

1/ Includes 4 idle mill operators who reported stocks on hand.

